(c) how Government propose to protect this ancient heritage; and

(d) if so, whether Government have drawn up any special plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The effect of salinity on exposed sculptures of Sun Temple, Konark depends upon the inherent mineral composition of the stone used. However, there is no report of the Konark sculptures breaking down due to the recent cyclone.

In addition to green belt created to protect the temple from the saline winds, chemical cleaning and treatment is also done periodically to protect and preserve the temple. Archaeological Survey of India has already removed the uprooted shrubs within the temple complex and has taken up the renovation of entire garden inside.

The Forest Department of Government of Orissa has initiated the salvage operation of damaged trees around Sun Temple, Konark and has prepared schemes for taking up the plantation in coastal belt around the temple. No time frame can be indicated for the implementation of the scheme by the State Government.

Restoration of temples in Combodia

4626. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Combodian Prime Minister has invited Archaeological Survey of India for restoration of temples at Angkor Vat;

(b) if so, whether the modalities have been finalised; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.